



MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2015

Location: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters (900 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA)

Subject: Steering Committee No. 6

Project Name: Los Angeles County Floodplain Management Plan Update

In Attendance: **Steering Committee:** Martin Araiza, Mark Child, George De La O, Okorie Ezieme, Scott Gardner, Michael Hart (phone), Tomoyo Kuriyama (attended for Kendra Pospychalla), Lisa Naslund, Belinda Popoff (attended for Loni Eazell), Debbie Sharpton, and Hu Yi
Planning Team: Eduardo Escobar, Michael Chen, Jeff Li, Ira Artz, Rob Flaner, Sara Townsend and Kristen Gelino
Non-voting Attendees and Coordinating Agencies: Joe Bellomo (phone), Josie Gutierrez, and Salomon Miranda

Not Present: John Blalock and Frank Lopez

Summary Prepared by: Kristen Gelino – 3/8/2015

Project No.: 103IS3293/T32834

Quorum – Yes or No Yes (11 voting members present)

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Welcome and Introductions

- Hu Yi opened the meeting and facilitated group introductions.
- The Agenda was reviewed and no modifications were made.
- Handouts provided included: Agenda, January Steering Committee Meeting Minutes, Questionnaire Summary, Draft Questionnaire Flyer, Mitigation Catalog Handout and Program for Public Information Handout.
- The January Steering Committee Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved with 10 members voting in favor and 1 abstention.
- No requests for comment were made.

Risk Assessment Update

Rob Flaner provided an overview of the status of the risk assessment. He reported on the general building stock update, the creation of the



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flood depth grids, the critical facility analysis, mapping, and the dam inundation analysis. Rob clarified that even if the planning team does not elect to move forward with a full scale dam inundation risk assessment for this planning process, the Floodplain Management Plan will still include a profile of the dams that have the potential to impact the planning area. If the analysis is not conducted, the profile will be qualitative rather than quantitative. Rob also indicated that a review of the unincorporated areas and the tsunami inundation zones indicated that there are only two structures within the unincorporated areas of the County that are likely to be impacted, thus, we will not be conducting a full-scale tsunami risk assessment.

Public Involvement Strategy

Sara Townsend provided an update on the public involvement strategy. She indicated that we are still in phase 1 and that we held our fourth public informational open house over the weekend in Lancaster. Sara reminded the Steering Committee that phase 2 of the public involvement strategy will consist of a meeting or a series of meetings where the draft plan is introduced and mechanisms for comment are described.

Sara also provided an update on the flood preparedness questionnaire. She indicated that we have only received about 20 completed questionnaires so far and we would really like to increase participation. The planning team has set a target of at least 100 completed surveys, so that the information that residents provide can be used to aid in the development of a robust action plan. Thus far, our target audience for the survey has been floodplain residents; however, flooding impacts everyone in the unincorporated areas of the County. She indicated that the planning team is hoping to widen opportunities to obtain completed questionnaires by distributing the survey via existing listservs or other social media outlets. Sara indicated that she would send out the questionnaire and some language that Steering Committee members can forward to groups or distribution lists. Several Steering Committee members indicated that they would be willing to forward on the information to a variety of distribution lists.

Sara will send out the finalized questionnaire flyer and language to introduce the questionnaire.

Steering Committee members will forward the questionnaire information and advertise on social media as appropriate.

**Item****Action****Results of SWOO and Mitigation Catalog**

Rob introduced the mitigation catalog and reminded the Steering Committee that the catalog was developed from the results of the strengths, weaknesses, obstacles, and opportunities (SWOO) session that was held during the January meeting. He explained the format and purpose of the catalog and reminded the Steering Committee that this document is not the action plan, it is a mechanism to promote thought on different types of actions. A brief discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of removing levees, which is an option presented in the catalog. The planning team indicated that the word “setback” would be added to this mitigation alternative.

Kristen will revise the mitigation catalog to say “Remove or setback levees.”

Rob reminded the Steering Committee that the LA County Department of Public Works will develop the action plan for the County’s plan, but they will be utilizing input provided by the Steering Committee and from the public. It is likely that by the next Steering Committee meeting the planning team will have some draft actions to present.

Program for Public Information (PPI)

Sara provided an overview of the purpose and required steps of the PPI process. She indicated that there would likely be three meetings to develop a strategy for the PPI between now and May and, at a minimum, an annual follow up meeting to assess the program and progress over the year. She indicated that the committee would be composed of at least five people: George De La O, as the floodplain management coordinator, one of the County’s Public Information Officers (PIO), and three non-governmental representatives. George indicated that the County is looking for individuals to offer a diverse perspective and an outside view that will result in some innovative approaches for the program. Several steering committee members put forth names and organizations for consideration. Sara indicated that she would follow up with the recommendations.

The planning team will follow up with recommendations for the PPI committee.

Next Steps

Rob provided a brief overview of next steps for the plan development. He indicated that the Committee would review the draft document in the next few months. The committee discussed several strategies for



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document review and indicated that track changes in Microsoft Word would likely be the preferred approach for most members. Rob indicated that the target timeline is to submit the draft document to the review agency, ISO (Insurance Services Office), by the end of June.	

Action Items for Next Meeting

The action items identified during the meeting were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 PM

The next Steering Committee meeting is:

March 24, 2015 at 10:30 AM

**Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works – Headquarters
(Conference Room D)**

900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803